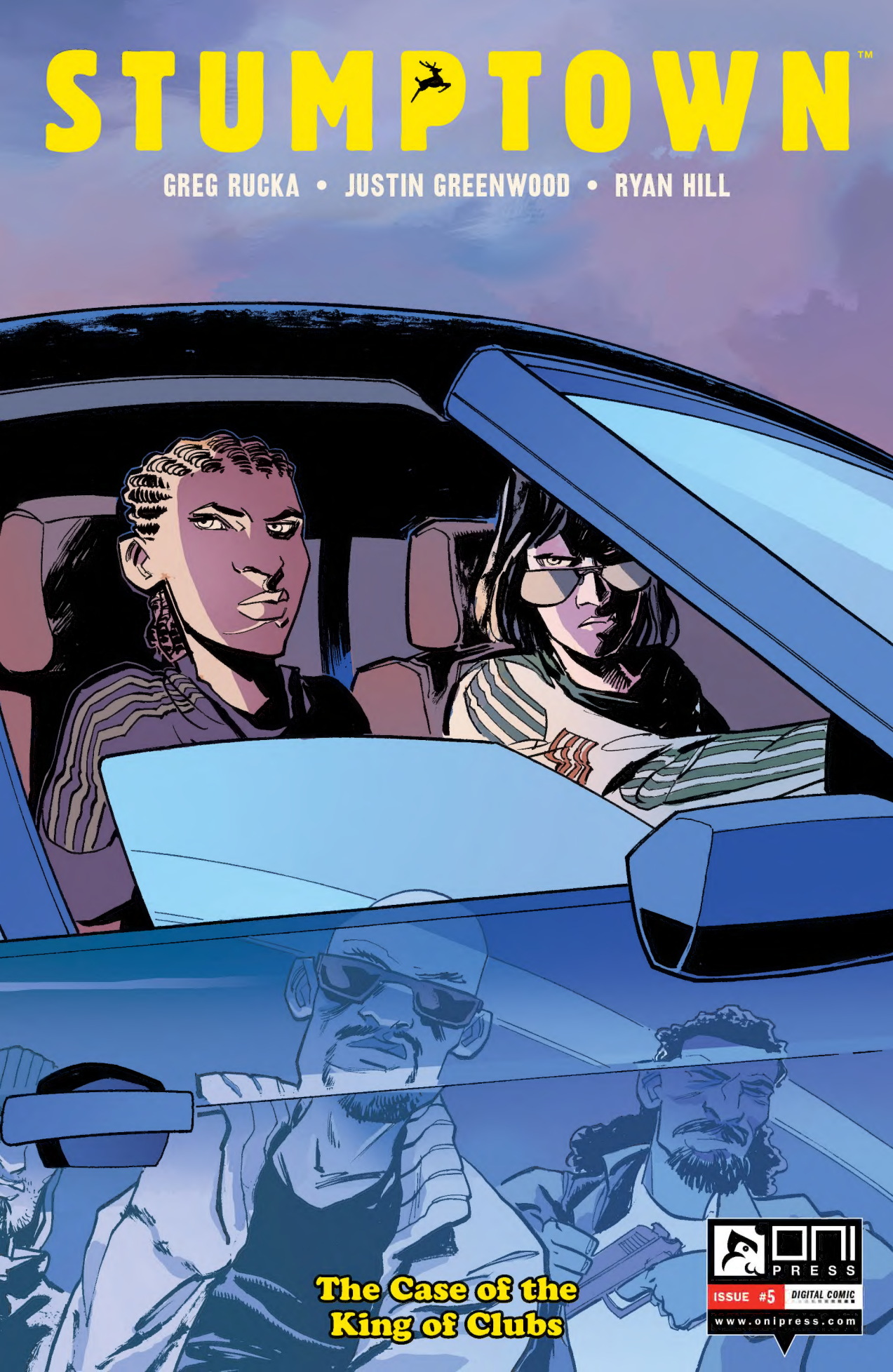
STUMPTOWN™

GREG RUCKA • JUSTIN GREENWOOD • RYAN HILL



The Case of the King of Clubs

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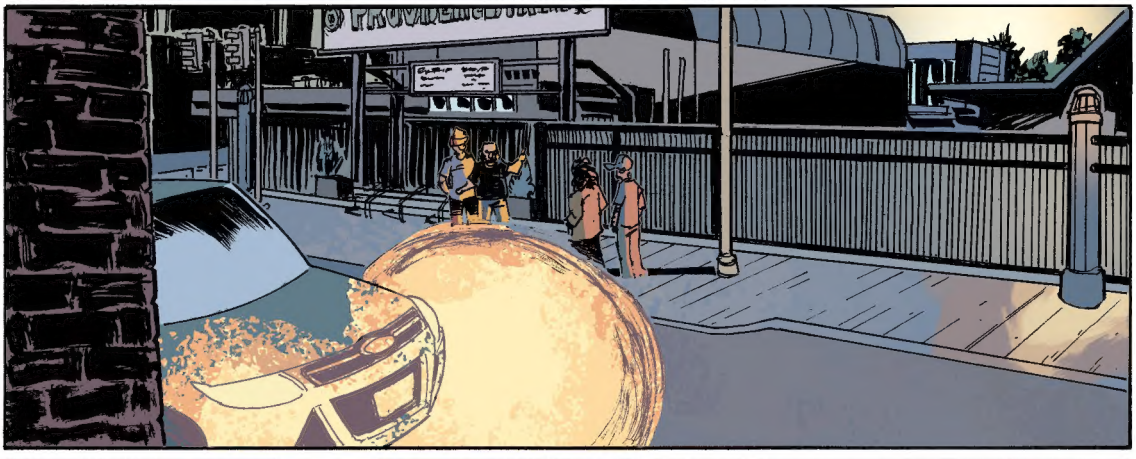
TICKETS HERE
TICKETS HERE
WHAT SAY WE *TALK* TO HIM?
YEAH. LET'S *DO* THAT.
YOU LET *ME* DO THE--
WAIT.



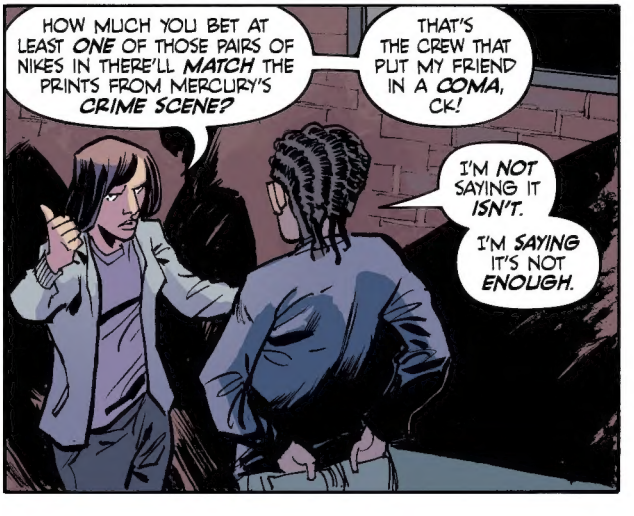
THEY'RE ALL SCALPERS.
THE FUCK? THEY HAVE A UNION OR SOMETHING.
PROBABLY ALL WORK THE SAME GAMES. TIMBERS, BLAZERS, THORNS, WINTERHAWKS...

WHAT YOU FIGURE? THEY GO IN THERE TO *SETTLE UP?*
DO THEIR *COUNT?*

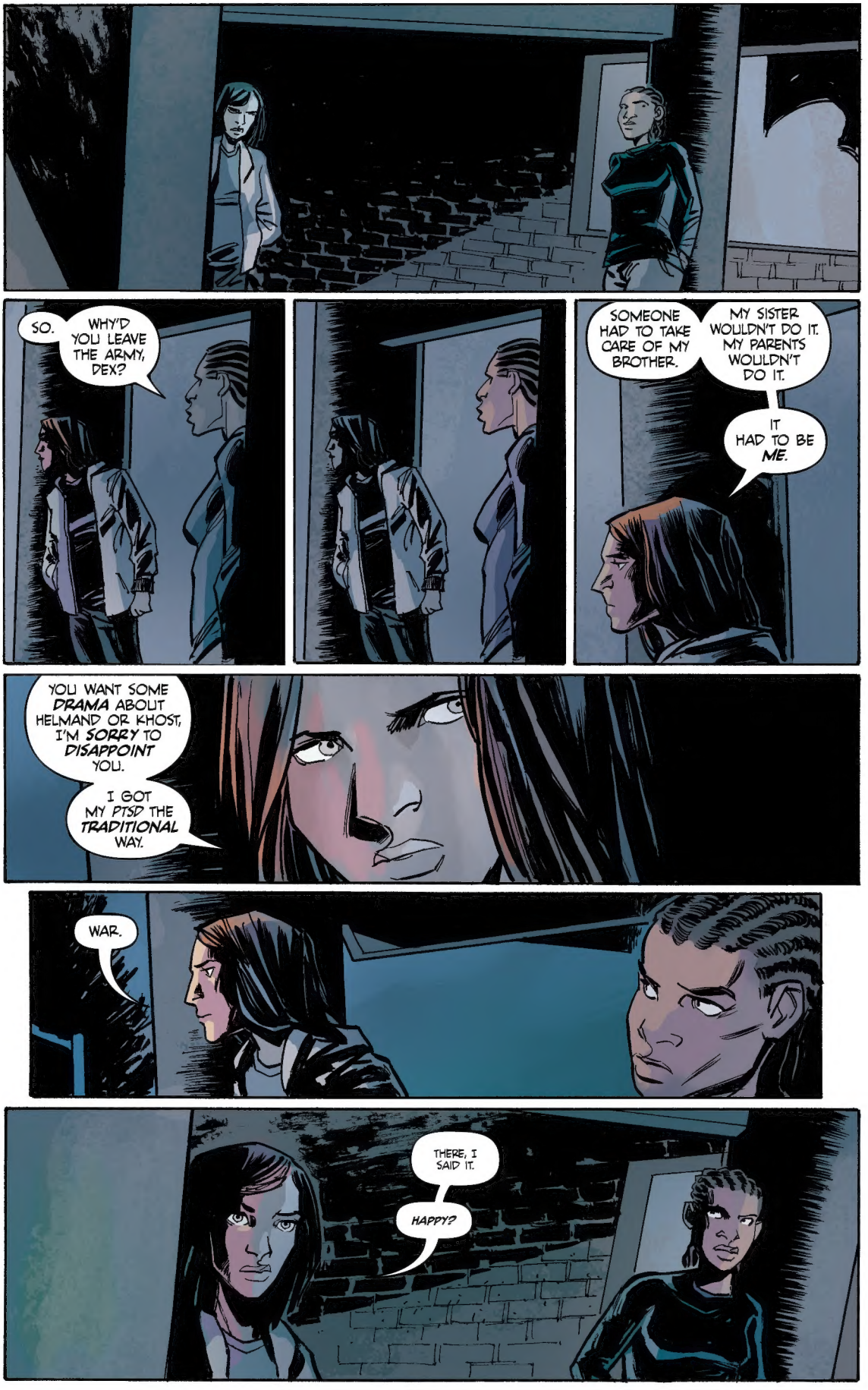
LET'S FIND *OUT.*
WHOA, HOLD IT UP.

YOU'RE GOING IN THERE?
YOU STILL CARRYING?
DAMN STRAIGHT.
WHAT'S *THAT* GOT TO DO WITH IT?

SCALPING'S NOT *ILLEGAL,* DEX.
IT FUCKING WELL *SHOULD* BE.
BUT IT'S *NOT.*


HOW MUCH YOU BET AT LEAST *ONE* OF THOSE PAIRS OF NIKES IN THERE'LL *MATCH* THE PRINTS FROM MERCURY'S *CRIME SCENE?*
THAT'S THE CREW THAT PUT MY FRIEND IN A *COMA,* CK!
I'M *NOT* SAYING IT *ISN'T.*
I'M *SAYING* IT'S NOT *ENOUGH.*

WE'RE MISSING SOMETHING.
IT'S LIKE WATCHING A CREW OF SLINGERS WORKING A CORNER...
...FUCK, WE'RE NOT MISSING SOMETHING--
WE'RE MISSING SOMEONE.
WE WAIT.
COOL. MAYBE FIND A BETTER SPOT, THOUGH.
YEAH.


SO.
WHY'D YOU LEAVE THE ARMY, DEX?
SOMEONE HAD TO TAKE CARE OF MY BROTHER.
MY SISTER WOULDN'T DO IT. MY PARENTS WOULDN'T DO IT.
IT HAD TO BE ME.
YOU WANT SOME DRAMA ABOUT HELMAND OR KHOST, I'M SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU.
I GOT MY PTSD THE TRADITIONAL WAY.
WAR.
THERE, I SAID IT.
HAPPY?

I WASN'T DIGGING FOR BLOOD, DEX.
JUST TRYING TO BE A FRIEND, THAT'S--
CAR.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I DON'T KNOW...
...NOTHING IN OR OUT FOR THE LAST TEN MINUTES, AT LEAST.
AND OUR BOYS ARE STILL IN THERE, UNLESS THEY LEFT BY ANOTHER ROUTE.
YEAH.

STILL WANT TO WAIT?
FUCK THAT. YOU?
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ISN'T RIGHT.
YOU WERE ALL GUNG-HO TO GET IN THERE, NOW YOU'RE NOT?
YOU FUCKING WITH ME, PARIOS?
NO.
LET'S MOVE.

SOMEONE WANTS THEIR CUT.
THAT'S WHAT MERCURY INTERRUPTED.
•00:00:47
•00:01:19
•00:01:56
THINK THAT'S ENOUGH?
I'D LIKE TO GET CLOSER--
POLICE!

YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!

GET DOWN ON YOUR **KNEES** WITH YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD!

MARCUS, IF YOU PLEASE?

I HAVE TO TALK TO **DUMB** AND **DUMBER**, HERE.

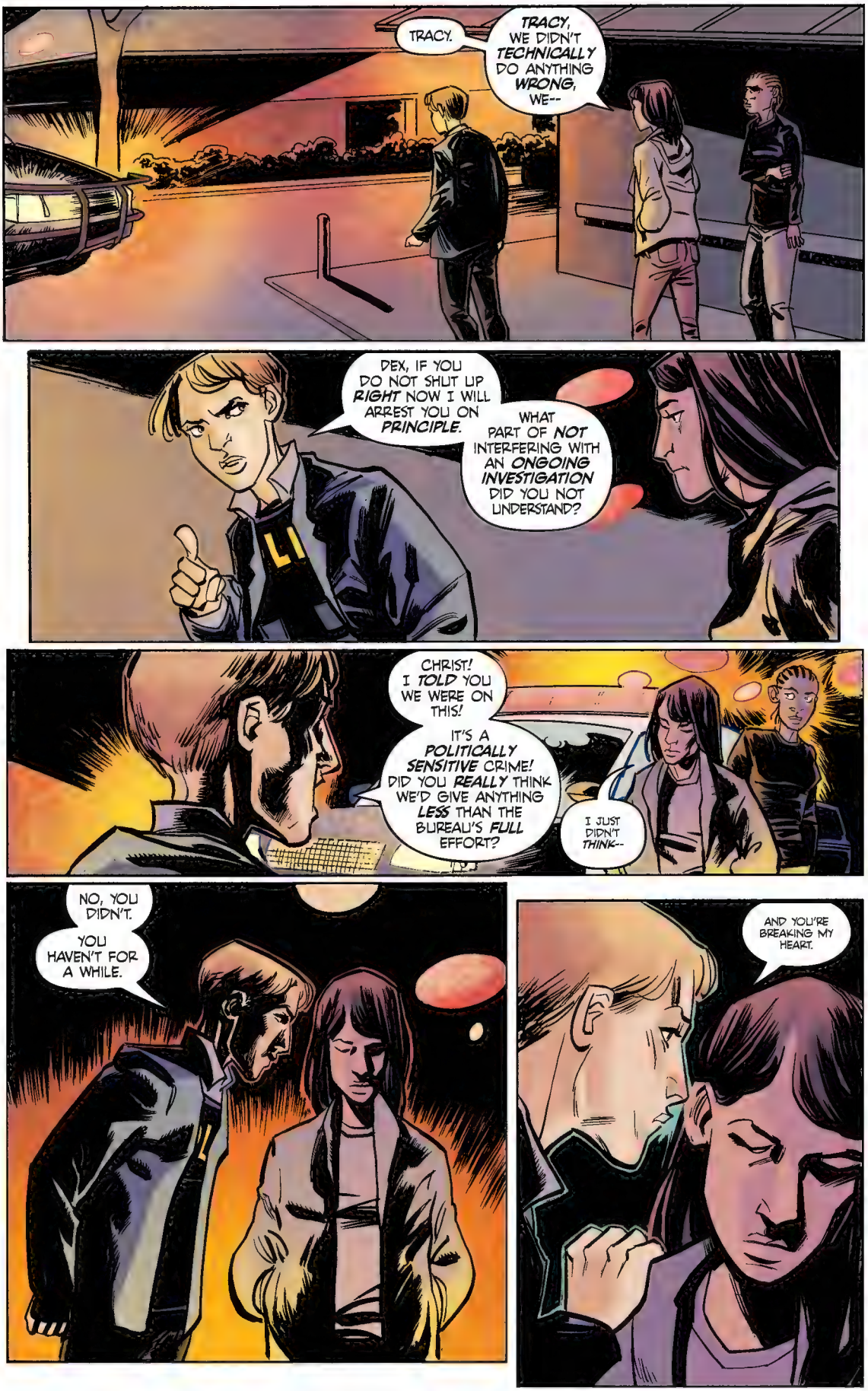
MY PLEASURE.

ALL OF YOU, **FACE DOWN**, NOW!

YEAH, I'M TALKING TO **YOU**, TOO, TOUGH GUY...

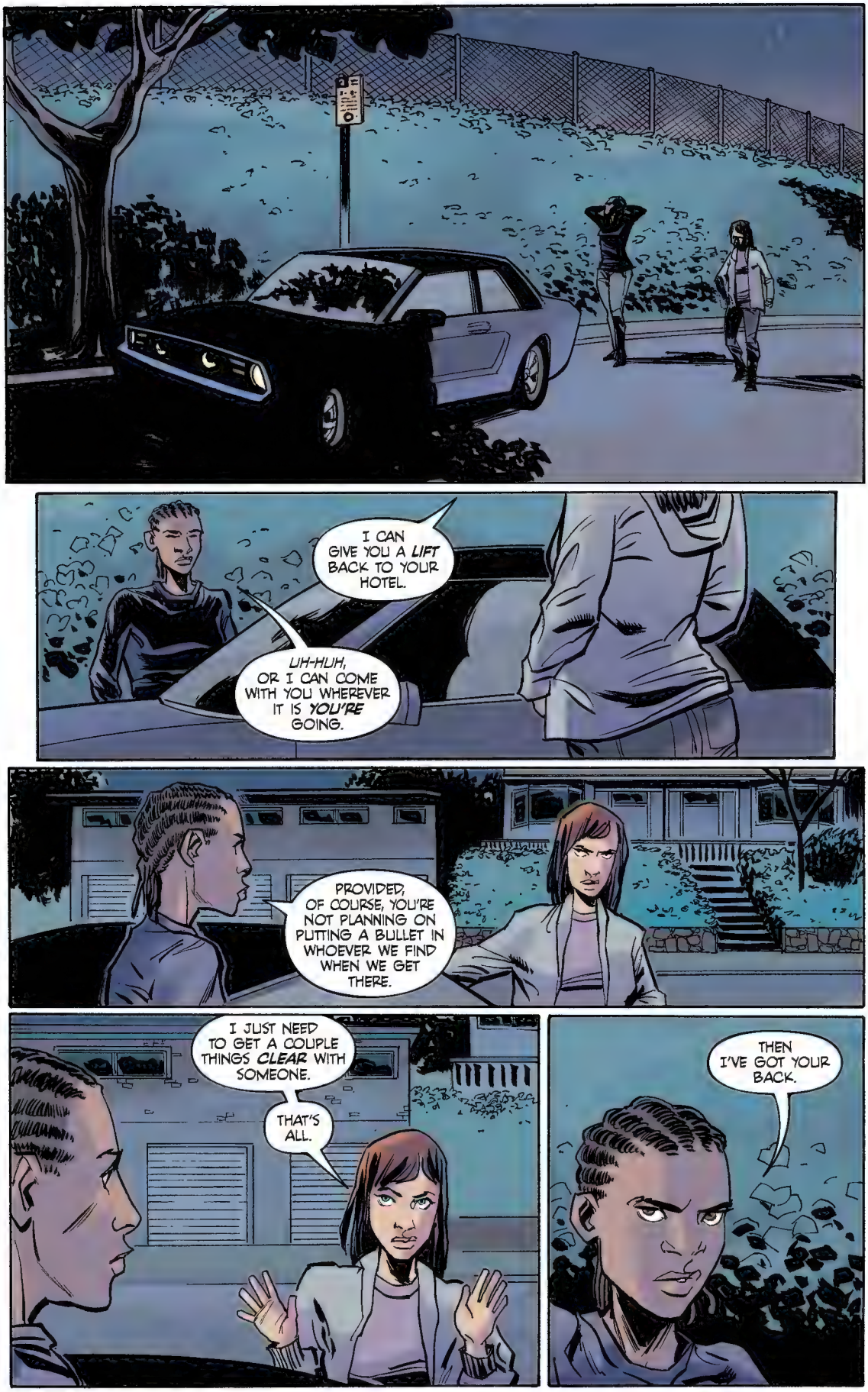
OUTSIDE.

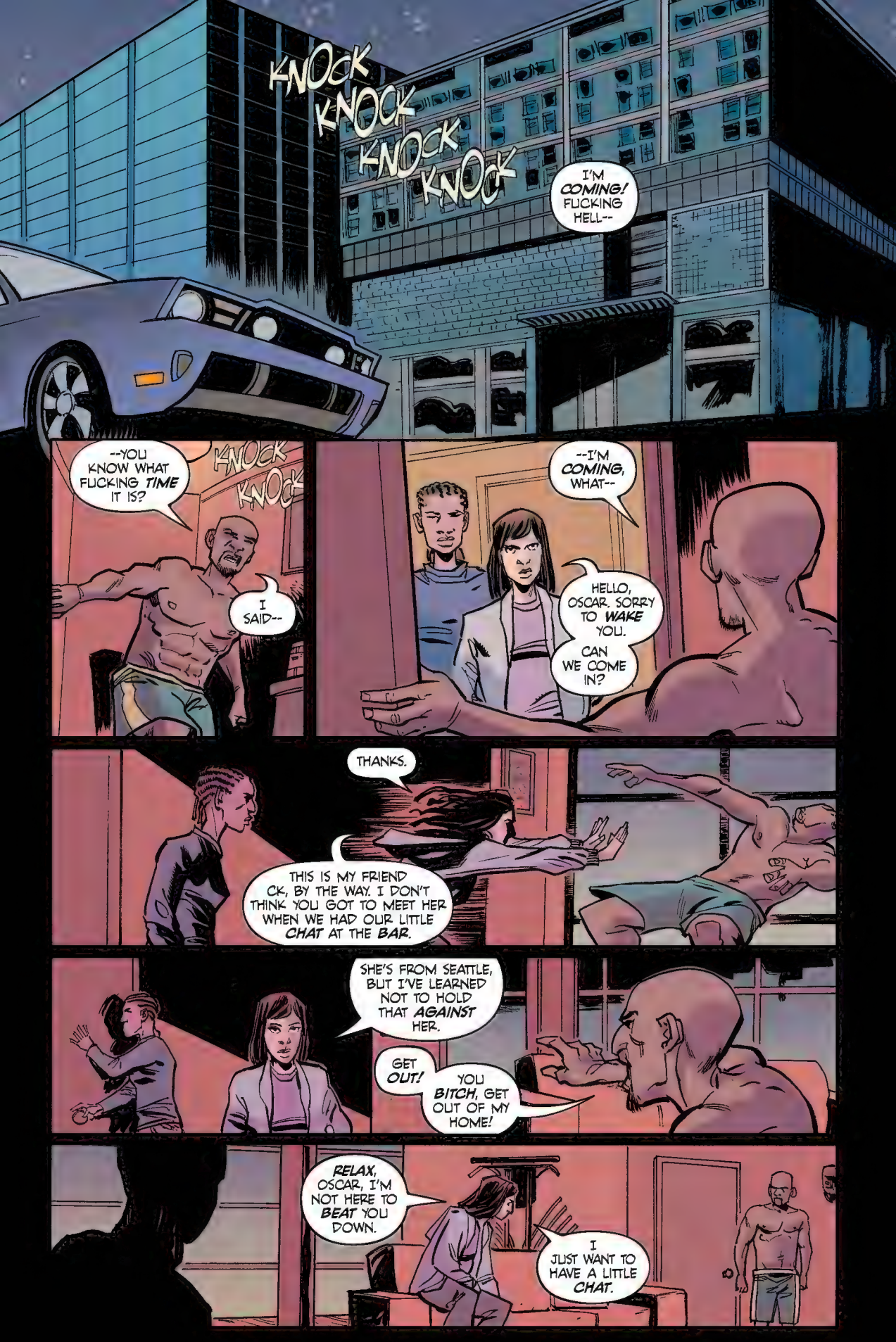
NOW.

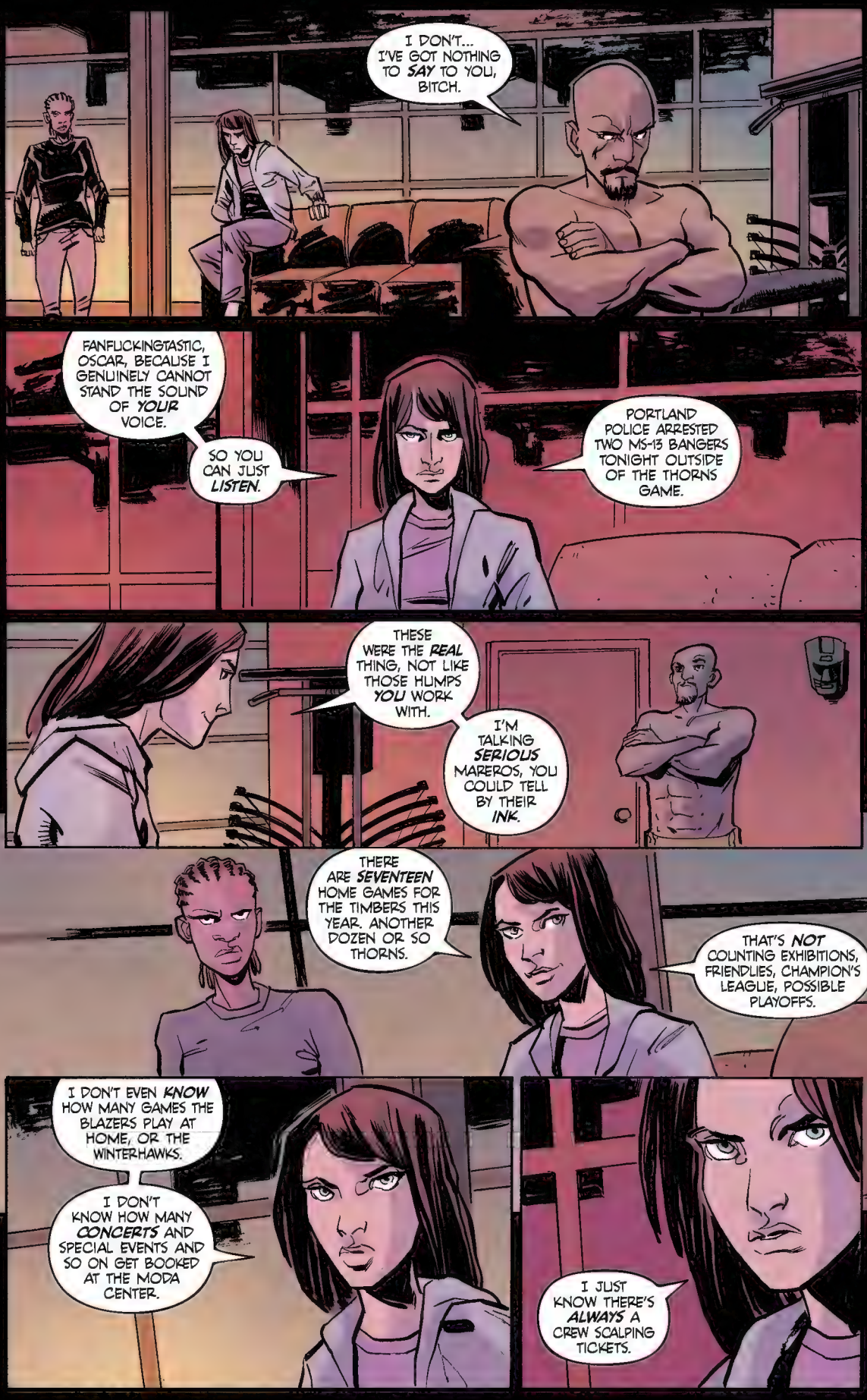

TRACY.
TRACY, WE DIDN'T TECHNICALLY DO ANYTHING WRONG, WE--
DEX, IF YOU DO NOT SHUT UP RIGHT NOW I WILL ARREST YOU ON PRINCIPLE.
WHAT PART OF NOT INTERFERING WITH AN ONGOING INVESTIGATION DID YOU NOT UNDERSTAND?
CHRIST! I TOLD YOU WE WERE ON THIS!
IT'S A POLITICALLY SENSITIVE CRIME! DID YOU REALLY THINK WE'D GIVE ANYTHING LESS THAN THE BUREAU'S FULL EFFORT?
I JUST DIDN'T THINK--
NO, YOU DIDN'T.
YOU HAVEN'T FOR A WHILE.
AND YOU'RE BREAKING MY HEART.

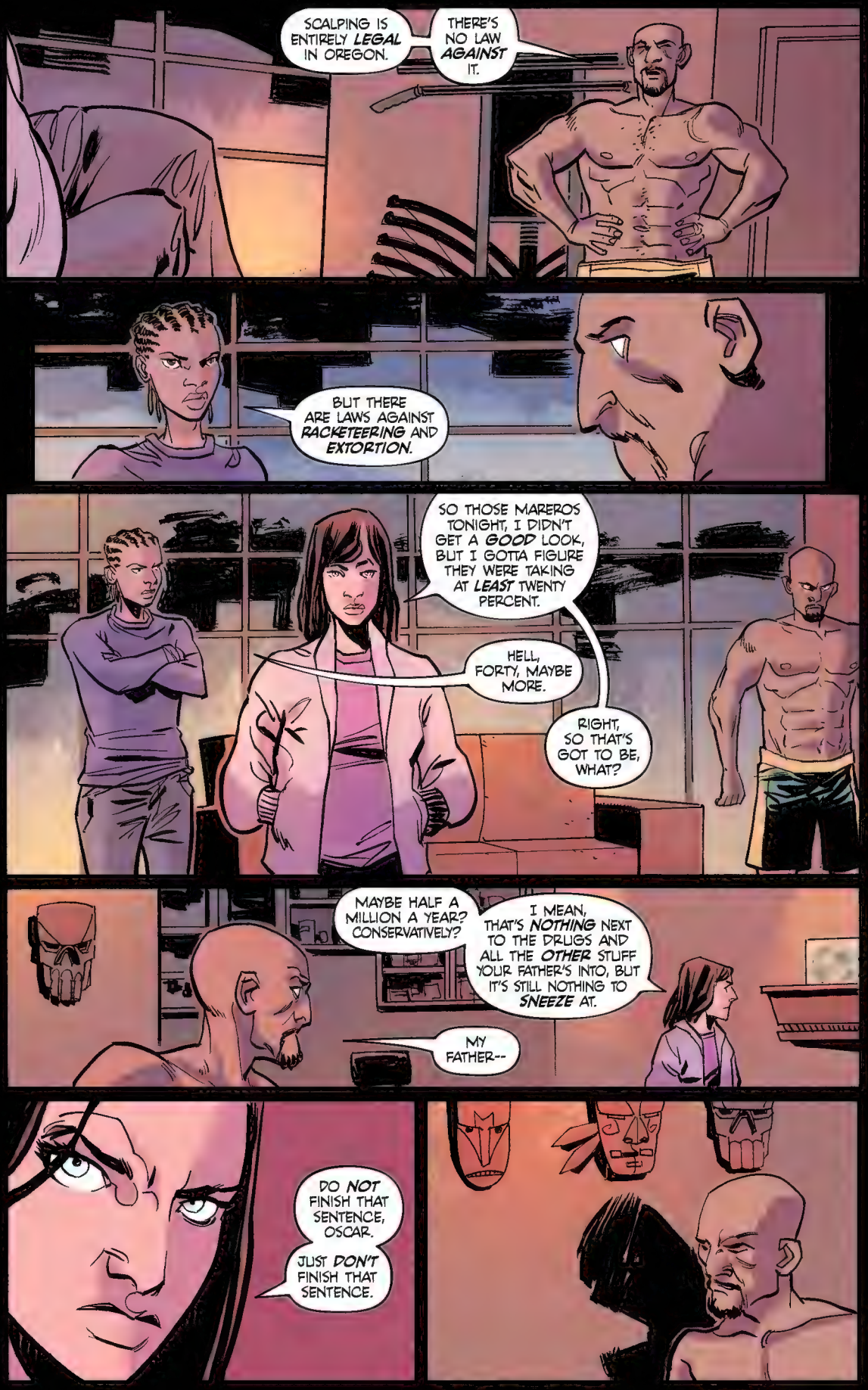
WE'VE, UHM...
...WE'VE GOT IT ALL RECORDED, IF YOU NEED IT.
I THINK WE'VE GOT IT COVERED.
WHAT WITH THE TWO SURVEILLANCE TEAMS AND EVERYTHING.
TWO...?
THIS WASN'T YOU STAKING OUT THE CRIME SCENE...
...THIS WAS A BUST.
YOU KNEW WHAT WOULD GO DOWN.

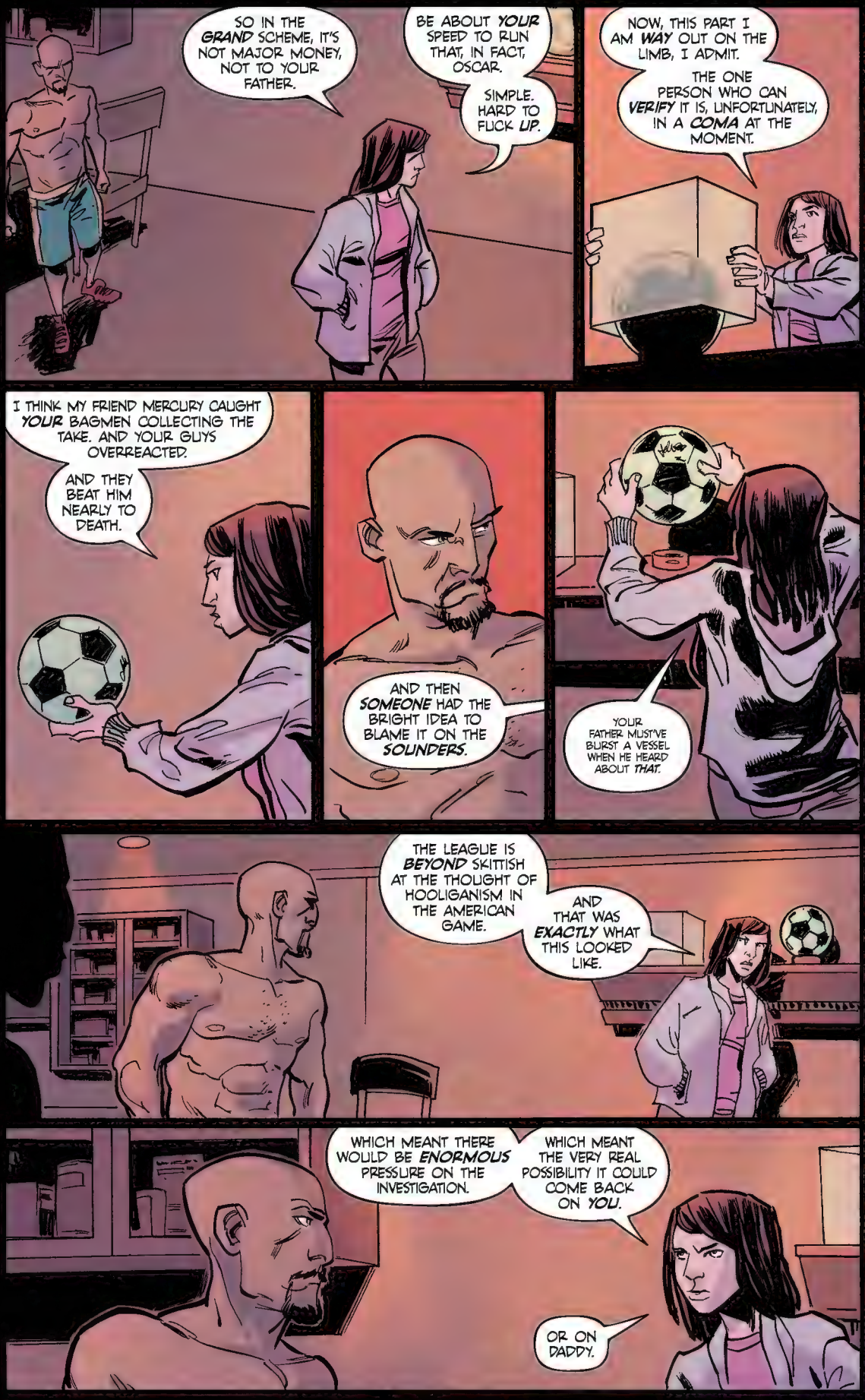
DEX...
...LOOK, I'M SORRY. I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN HARD ON YOU, THAT THIS WAS PERSONAL.
BUT WE'VE GOT THE GUYS, AND IT'S GOING TO STICK.
YOU CAN SET THIS DOWN.
GO, GET OUT OF HERE.
GET A DRINK, GO VISIT YOUR FRIEND AT THE HOSPITAL...
...TELL HIM IT'S OVER, THAT HE GOT JUSTICE...


I CAN GIVE YOU A *LIFT* BACK TO YOUR HOTEL.
UH-HUH, OR I CAN COME WITH YOU WHEREVER IT IS *YOU'RE* GOING.
PROVIDED, OF COURSE, YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON PUTTING A BULLET IN WHOEVER WE FIND WHEN WE GET THERE.
I JUST NEED TO GET A COUPLE THINGS *CLEAR* WITH SOMEONE.
THAT'S ALL.
THEN I'VE GOT YOUR BACK.


KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
I'M COMING! FUCKING HELL--
--YOU KNOW WHAT FUCKING TIME IT IS?
KNOCK KNOCK
I SAID--
--I'M COMING, WHAT--
HELLO, OSCAR. SORRY TO WAKE YOU.
CAN WE COME IN?
THANKS.
THIS IS MY FRIEND CK, BY THE WAY. I DON'T THINK YOU GOT TO MEET HER WHEN WE HAD OUR LITTLE CHAT AT THE BAR.
SHE'S FROM SEATTLE, BUT I'VE LEARNED NOT TO HOLD THAT AGAINST HER.
GET OUT!
YOU BITCH, GET OUT OF MY HOME!
RELAX, OSCAR, I'M NOT HERE TO BEAT YOU DOWN.
I JUST WANT TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT.


I DON'T... I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU, BITCH.
FANFUCKINGTASTIC, OSCAR, BECAUSE I GENUINELY CANNOT STAND THE SOUND OF YOUR VOICE.
SO YOU CAN JUST LISTEN.
PORTLAND POLICE ARRESTED TWO MS-13 BANGERS TONIGHT OUTSIDE OF THE THORNS GAME.
THESE WERE THE REAL THING, NOT LIKE THOSE HUMPS YOU WORK WITH.
I'M TALKING SERIOUS MAREROS, YOU COULD TELL BY THEIR INK.
THERE ARE SEVENTEEN HOME GAMES FOR THE TIMBERS THIS YEAR. ANOTHER DOZEN OR SO THORNS.
THAT'S NOT COUNTING EXHIBITIONS, FRIENDLIES, CHAMPION'S LEAGUE, POSSIBLE PLAYOFFS.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW MANY GAMES THE BLAZERS PLAY AT HOME, OR THE WINTERHAWKS.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY CONCERTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS AND SO ON GET BOOKED AT THE MODA CENTER.
I JUST KNOW THERE'S ALWAYS A CREW SCALPING TICKETS.


SCALPING IS ENTIRELY LEGAL IN OREGON.
THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST IT.
BUT THERE ARE LAWS AGAINST RACKETEERING AND EXTORTION.
SO THOSE MAREROS TONIGHT, I DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK, BUT I GOTTA FIGURE THEY WERE TAKING AT LEAST TWENTY PERCENT.
HELL, FORTY, MAYBE MORE.
RIGHT, SO THAT'S GOT TO BE, WHAT?
MAYBE HALF A MILLION A YEAR? CONSERVATIVELY?
I MEAN, THAT'S NOTHING NEXT TO THE DRUGS AND ALL THE OTHER STUFF YOUR FATHER'S INTO, BUT IT'S STILL NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT.
MY FATHER--
DO NOT FINISH THAT SENTENCE, OSCAR.
JUST DON'T FINISH THAT SENTENCE.


SO IN THE GRAND SCHEME, IT'S NOT MAJOR MONEY, NOT TO YOUR FATHER.
BE ABOUT YOUR SPEED TO RUN THAT, IN FACT, OSCAR.
SIMPLE. HARD TO FUCK UP.
NOW, THIS PART I AM WAY OUT ON THE LIMB, I ADMIT.
THE ONE PERSON WHO CAN VERIFY IT IS, UNFORTUNATELY, IN A COMA AT THE MOMENT.
I THINK MY FRIEND MERCURY CAUGHT YOUR BAGMEN COLLECTING THE TAKE. AND YOUR GUYS OVERREACTED.
AND THEY BEAT HIM NEARLY TO DEATH.
AND THEN SOMEONE HAD THE BRIGHT IDEA TO BLAME IT ON THE SOUNDERS.
YOUR FATHER MUST'VE BURST A VESSEL WHEN HE HEARD ABOUT THAT.
THE LEAGUE IS BEYOND SKITTISH AT THE THOUGHT OF HOOLIGANISM IN THE AMERICAN GAME.
AND THAT WAS EXACTLY WHAT THIS LOOKED LIKE.
WHICH MEANT THERE WOULD BE ENORMOUS PRESSURE ON THE INVESTIGATION.
WHICH MEANT THE VERY REAL POSSIBILITY IT COULD COME BACK ON YOU.
OR ON DADDY.

SO DADDY HAD TO FIX ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR MESSES.
HAD TO BRING IN SOME MAREROS WHO COULD DO TIME STANDING ON ONE LEG AND NOT BLINK.
WHO WOULDN'T DEAL.
I THINK DADDY DROPPED A DIME ON YOUR OPERATION, OSCAR.
I THINK THAT'S WHY THE COPS WERE WAITING IN THE GARAGE TONIGHT.
AND THEY'LL GET A CONFESSION, IF THEY DON'T HAVE ONE ALREADY.
AND THAT'LL BE THAT.
AND YOU CAN GO BACK TO BUSINESS AS USUAL.
IT'S A NICE THEORY.
THAT'S ALL IT IS.
IT IS UNTIL MY FRIEND WAKES UP.
THEN HE MAYBE FILLS IN THE BLANKS.

MAYBE YOUR FRIEND DOESN'T WAKE UP.
YOU BETTER HOPE HE DOES, OSCAR.
AND YOU BETTER TELL HECTOR I SAID SO.
YOU MAKE DAMN SURE YOU TELL YOUR FATHER I SAID SO.
I STILL HAVE PAPER ON YOU, OSCAR.
OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?
I FUCKING OWN YOU.
AND IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO MY FRIEND, IF HE TAKES A TURN FOR THE WORSE...
...I WILL BURN YOU.
TELL YOUR FATHER WHAT I SAID.

DIVER! DIVER!
GIVE HER A CARD, REF!
MUD-DY BALLS! MUD-DY BALLS!
ABREV
MIK
71
YOU KNOW I'M A COP?
I CAN BAN YOU FOR MULTIPLE GAMES, IF YOU LIKE.
HOFFMAN
4
HAVEN'T WE BEEN HERE BEFORE?
THOSE WHO CANNOT REMEMBER THE PAST ARE CONDEMNED TO REPEAT IT.

I'M GONNA PUT THIS ONE BY YOU, LIKE I DID LAST TIME.
LOW AND TO THE LEFT.
THAT MY LEFT OR YOUR LEFT?
TWEEEEEEEEEE-
BANES
6
I'M NEVER GONNA LIE TO YOU, DEX.
THEN YOU'RE IN RARE COMPANY, CK.
YOU WANT TO GET A BEER AFTER?
SURE.
WAIT. IT'LL HAVE TO BE LATE...

"...I'VE GOT SOMEWHERE TO BE FIRST."
OHSU Hospital
175
PITTY

DEX IS BACK ON THE CASE

THIS SPRING!

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